

THE ARGUS.

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Rock Island—From River to River

It is to be hoped that August will take the trouble to warm its hands and feet before it returns.

With England also bending to the demands of America, Wilson's stock as the greatest president since Lincoln is surely rising.

Chicago's new city directory shows there are 16,000 Johnsons in the city. What, indeed, is there in a name under such circumstances.

A few such mornings as these and county officers will begin looking up prices of fur coats and felt boots for office wear.

"Let us be on the square with the men who pay the bills," admonishes the organ of obstruction. Very well. Why not start by permitting them to select their own paying material.

Under a law passed at the last session of the legislature townships are authorized to establish public parks. This offers a convenient means of solving the embarrassing question in Moline of disposal of surplus township funds. Rock Island never has been burdened in this manner.

Labor day this year falls upon the anniversary of Lafayette's birth and thus is afforded an opportunity for Americans to pay tribute to the memory of the man who gave concrete evidence of the sympathy of France with the struggle of the United States for freedom.

Nearly every civilized nation, whether engaged in war or not, has found it necessary to issue bonds during the last year. And yet if the United States ultimately is compelled to adopt the same course it will be the fault of the administration if one were to believe the industrious G. O. P. press agents.

Identification tags which trans-Atlantic passengers on belittled ships are wearing lately may give a certain mournful assurance to the waters, but it is difficult to understand why people insist upon placing themselves in position to use them when there are American ships traveling the same routes which can give a reasonable assurance of safety.

The immense shipment of gold, 42 tons, which has been delivered in New York to pay for British war supplies represents a paltry \$20,000,000, enough to conduct England's end of the war game for only a few days. Belittlers in the present conflict could well afford to shoot golden bullets if they could score a hit in one shot out of ten.

In the five months since a naval and an army reserve have been established by act of congress there have been but 103 enlistments in the former and even less in the latter. This may be taken to fairly represent the real war spirit in the country, or in other words, to show how many there who want war and want to serve in it as common privates.

"I have read with great care the history of all the European countries for the last 100 years and I have read all the state documents issued in connection with the present war, but I confess freely that I do not know why this war is being fought," declared Vice President Marshall in an address recently. This ought to give the rest of us a lot of trouble and mental effort.

JULY'S IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

Figures made public by the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce, department of commerce, show a slight decrease in imports and a large gain in exports during July and the seven months ending with July, 1915, when compared with those periods of last year. July imports totaled \$143,099,620 this year, against \$128,772,251 a year ago. July exports were the largest ever recorded for that month, being for this year \$267,878,990, compared with \$154,138,247 for July, 1914, and \$150,990,778 for July, 1913, when the month made a new high record.

Of the July, 1915, imports 64.6 per cent entered free of duty, against 58.2 per cent in July last year.

During the seven months ending with July, imports this year totaled \$1,008,909,441, against \$1,140,593,373 in 1914, a decrease of 11.6 per cent; while exports aggregated \$1,588,787,495 in 1915, against \$1,209,882,182 in 1914, a gain of 31.4 per cent.

For the month of July, 1915, there was an export balance of \$124,879,370, as compared with an export balance of \$55,583,344 in July, 1914, and an export balance of \$21,829,008 in July,

1913. For the seven months ending with July the export balance fell only a little short of being a billion dollars, the total being \$960,878,054, against \$80,388,789 in the first seven months of 1914.

Gold imports in July, 1915, amounted to \$17,263,298, against \$3,291,715 in July, 1914; and gold exports in July last were \$2,191,725, compared with \$39,689,424 in July, 1914. For the seven months ending with July, this year's gold imports aggregated \$162,187,374, against \$24,126,137 in 1914; while gold exports were \$9,774,263, in comparison with \$117,642,926 in 1914. Thus there was a net inward gold movement of \$152,413,112 in the first seven months of 1915 and a net outward movement of \$32,005,523 in a like period of 1914.

THE COMMON WASHRAG.

The United States public health service and the various state and local boards of health have taken adequate measures for the abolition of that distributor of disease germs, the common towel. Now comes the news that the common washrag is even a greater menace to health. The hotels and public hosteleries have recognized this for some time, and have supplied their guests with sterilized wash cloths in individual sealed packets. The damp "sour" smelling washrag still exists, however, in many private bath rooms. Imperfectly washed out after use, frequently not wrung out at all, it is often hung over a rack or a radiator near an open window, there to collect dust and dirt. Frequently the same washrag is used by the entire family, thus affording an easy means of transference of mouth secretions from person to person. In many households each individual has his own wash cloth and his individual towel, but these hang so close to one another that there is ready interchange of bacteria. Each individual should have his own wash cloth. It should be thoroughly washed out with clean hot water after use. It should be then wrung as nearly dry as possible, and if possible hung in the sun to dry. It should not come in contact with other wash cloths. In the investigations the United States public health service is conducting in regard to the prevalence of trachoma it has been found that common towels probably acted as a medium of distribution of the germ of disease.

PUBLICITY FOR SCHOOL NEEDS.

Frank publicity in securing the co-operation of the community in the work of the schools is urged by W. S. Deffenbaugh of the United States bureau of education, in a report of "School Progress in the Smaller Cities," just issued.

"School boards that are managing the schools ably and honestly do not fear to turn on the searchlight," declares Mr. Deffenbaugh. "The sentiment is growing among school boards that the public should know how its money is expended. In the most progressive schools the board and the superintendent are presenting facts to the people either in printed reports, in newspaper articles, or by both.

"Some school men, however, object to furnishing the newspapers with school information on the ground that they are already advertising themselves. A superintendent who has been complaining about lack of interest among the parents in the schools of his city was asked whether he reported the progress of the schools through the local papers. He replied that he did not believe in advertising himself. He failed to grasp the idea that school news is not for the purpose of boosting a superintendent; besides being legitimate news, it calls attention to the needs of the work of the school so that the school may become more efficient.

"In several cities, as Fredonia, Kan., there is an educational issue of the local paper. In some other cities there are daily school news notes. On the whole, the public is becoming better informed regarding the schools than it was a few years ago. The tendency is toward greater publicity by means of printed reports and newspaper articles.

"That the schools can work to advantage through women's civic improvement clubs and through parent-teacher associations has been thoroughly demonstrated in many of the smaller cities. Such clubs are often instrumental in the introduction of kindergarten, manual training and domestic science. The superintendent of one school utilized the women's clubs of the city by asking that each club give some consideration to the question. What can be done to improve the efficiency of your schools? Each club discussed this question and sent a representative to present to the teachers the ideas of the club. In the opinion of the superintendent of schools in that city, the plan aroused interest among the women of the city in better schools."

THE "HUMBLE MECHANIC."

The organ of the combination is now assuming credit for the slogan "River to River." Just like it to overlook the humble mechanic who submitted it to the committee appointed to select a slogan for the city over three years ago—Organ of obstruction.

The "humble mechanic" who presented this slogan to the committee was none other than Captain W. A. Rosenfield, of the Rock Island Bridge & Iron works.

ASK THE FANS.

The combination's organ has said the world. We are to have baseball next year. Fine. It has given its consent. But why have we been deprived of the sport for so long—having a \$25,000 municipal park, too?—Organ of obstruction.

The Argus all along has merely voiced the feelings of the fans who preferred to do without baseball rather than submit to the yoke of the friend of the organ of obstruction. At Tear-

Every laxative has its day. At present purified petroleum oil enjoys the vogue which castor oil never attained in its palmy days.

There must be 40 different brands of petroleum oil marketed to meet this big demand for a laxative. In the matter of flavor it may be that some brands are pleasanter to take than others, but so far as the effect goes one is as good or bad as another.

So-called "Russian" oil is in no sense superior to out-and-out American refined petroleum—but you know how it is, anything imported seems higher class than plain home-made goods, to some people.

The virtues of mineral oil as a laxative which makes it preferable in some cases to other laxatives are, first, that it increases the peristaltic or wave movement of the bowel without being absorbed and producing other effects simultaneously, as many laxative remedies do; second, it is apparently not habit-forming, as some laxatives, not all, undoubtedly are; and third, it is supposed to absorb a certain proportion of the toxic substances in the bowel which make the constipated person feel so wretched. This latter virtue, however, must be largely theoretical, for the maximum quantity of toxic material mineral oil could possibly absorb in the doses usually employed would be something less than a drop in the bucket.

Anybody who feels impelled to "purge" himself with mineral oil, liquid paraffin, liquid petroleum, albolene, paraffin oil, or any of the laxo tics that trademark brands on the market, would do well to take it an hour away from mealtime, and rather

or two or three small doses daily than one full dose.

It is perhaps most frequently prescribed for those who have food stasis—a sort of a new mode in constipation—and especially in cases of proctitis, or sagging of the alimentary canal. In the latter condition, which the X-ray photograph of a digesting bismuth-meal shows to be much more common than appearances would indicate, pure petroleum oil is believed to facilitate the passage of the alimentary stream over the various kinks and hills which proctitis causes.

After all, we suspect that the old-time mixture of senna leaves and chopped figs, or aromatic syrup of rhubarb, or cascara, or phenolphthalein (the laxative in many laxative-and-that tablets or wafers), and several other physics—always excepting the crude and harmful aloes and aloin-containing pills—are in effect "just as good," though not so expensive and fashionable as the novel petroleum. However, as the w. k. old lady said, every one to his own taste.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Backache of Invalid in Bed.
Can you suggest anything to relieve or prevent the backache suffered frequently by one confined to bed? She has to sleep on her back, and sometimes the pain is very troublesome at night.

Answer.—It is due to relaxation of the joints between base of spine (sacrum) and hip bones (ilium), the sacro-iliac joint. The doctor might strap the pelvis with adhesive plaster, or the patient might wear a small pillow or pad strapped to the lower spine. A good massage of the back by a strong nurse helps.

THE INTERESTS BACK OF THE WAR TRUST

(New York Dispatch to Washington, D. C., Times).

Further light was thrown on the vast project under way by Standard Oil banking interests for the financing of Russia's war needs, the purchase of Russian war supplies on this side of the Atlantic from companies controlled by those interests, and the project of the entrance of the industries of this country into Russian commercial trade under the guidance of those interests both during the war and after.

The war plans of the Standard Oil banking interests will in no way conflict with the work which is being done by the interests represented by J. P. Morgan & Co., the latter interests having been aware for some time of the projects of the Standard Oil banking group, the two great banking interests having come to an understanding on the course which each is to follow.

The Morgan group will remain the dominant factor with regard to meeting the requirements in this country of the British empire, both in financing and in purchasing and manufacturing of supplies, and at the same time will give free rein to the Standard Oil group in the latter's efforts along similar lines with regard to Russia.

The opinion prevails in banking quarters that with the work proceeding along the lines now outlined, the manufacturing capacity of this country available for the purposes of

the allies will be worked to its highest degree of efficiency.

Announcement is that the Canadian Car and Foundry company has booked a \$71,000,000 order for the manufacture of shrapnel and high-explosive shells. This is one of the Standard Oil banking interests in which the Standard Oil banking interests are understood to have obtained a controlling interest in their plans for entering into the war supply business on a vast scale.

Details of the order provided further indications of a working agreement on war work between the Morgan and Standard Oil groups. The contract in question was negotiated for the account of Great Britain and France, and was placed through the firm of J. P. Morgan & Co. Meanwhile another huge order is being negotiated with the company for the account of Russia, and will go through other hands.

How July's plan the Standard Oil interests have acquired in taking control of the Canadian Car and Foundry company is shown in the fact that with the orders mentioned and the order placed with the company for \$88,000,000 of shrapnel some months ago by the Russian government that company will have received the largest war orders placed with any company in America with the exception of the Bethlehem Steel corporation and the Crucible Steel company of America, the size of whose orders has been due to the fact those companies are ordnance manufacturers.

CHANGING THE MAP OF CENTRAL AMERICA

While the soldiers of Europe are putting the facts of the political geography of their continent through a kaleidoscope, the final adjustments of a magnificent change in the physical geography in Central America brought about by United States engineers are taking place. The interesting features connected with this man-conducted metamorphosis in the isthmian world's surface, the creation of an inland sea, the drowning of a tropical jungle, and the ordered migration of a swarm of jungle life from the valley bottoms to the hills—as depicted by George Shiras, 3rd, in a communication to the National Geographic society, is told in the following bulletin:

"Gatun Lake is not only the largest fresh-water lake ever created by man—a navigable viaduct almost bridging the two oceans and reached by terminal elevators in the form of locks—but, in addition, a vast reservoir for the adjoining water sheds, assuring throughout the year a sufficient water supply for the operation of the locks, for electric power, for the establishment of inland fisheries, and for portable and other domestic uses. The lake, much larger than the one that the French intended to construct, also allows greater freedom and speed to the vessels using the canal, and permits local navigation of many of the jungle valleys.

"When the long embankment at the north end was closed, thus stopping the only gap that nature had left in the rim of hills, the inland waters began covering the lowlands, creeping up the wild tangled valleys, drowning the mighty forests and the rank tropical jungles, flooding out native villages and destroying scattered plantations, marooning wild creatures like the monkey, ocelot, peccary, armadillo and the sloth on hill tops unexpectedly converted into permanent islands, submerging the mud flats of the heron and the ibis, driving the deer, the jaguar, the tapir, iguana and monster snakes through the rising waters to less hampered retreats, and opening up a new and larger home for the

swamp alligator and the stream-bodied fish.

"Here all the centuries-long process of the sinking of the land and the rising of the waters was enacted in a fascinating nature-drama of a few months. Gatun Lake, at a surface elevation of 85 feet, is estimated to cover 164 square miles, and extends not merely over the previously existing swampy ground of the Chagres valley, but it has risen so far above the floor of the lowlands as to extend for miles between the hills, forming estuaries, lagoons and ponds, turning rapid, un navigable streams into deep sluggish rivers, and converting hilltops into beautiful islands, some of them miles in length, while thousands of acres of flooded and fallen timber, into which stretch or circle narrow necks of land, practically defy any accurate estimate of the so-called shore line of the new lake.

"As the lake swelled from a pond into a sea, the Indians of Panama saw all their notions of inland navigation swept by the board. They had been accustomed to polling or paddling in the swift streams in their cayucas, or dugout, but they found that no one among them knew how to handle the canoe under the new conditions brought about by the lake.

"The Indians, however, were the least sufferers caused by the magic appearance of the lake. There are forests of fine trees slowly dying, as is a luxurious mass of jungle plant life. On many of the trees are pendant termite nests filled with restless and like creatures doomed to slow starvation. And besides, many animals have suffered the fate of being marooned and slowly starved. The coming of the lake has worked a considerable damage upon the life that was there before, but, unlike the changes wrought in European geography, this change will be a permanent, its utility, its comfort to a real-estate plant and animal world, and its tropical beauties, in all likelihood, will be lasting on through many rearrangements of boundaries."

CHORDS AND DISCORDS

OUR notion of a real neutral is a foreign-born printer who dumped all his hiphens into the bell box.

MEMBERS of the Illinois board of dental examiners appear to have lost their pull. Judge Creighton has enjoined the state treasurer from paying their salaries.

BLOOMINGTON, ILL.—I saw "The Last Drop of Water" at a movie house here the other night. It gave me an awful thirst, but it was just my luck after the show to find that I was in a dry town.

LOUIE S.

CHICAGO is boasting of the lowest tax rates in America. But you'll discover that they go no farther than the board.

MISS Eva M. Shonis may be put on the national prohibition ticket for vice president of the United States. Her friends think she would have a good chance.

YEGGS failed in an attempt to rob a Chicago beauty shop the other night. It is said the perfume was too strong for them.

When Pain Is Painful.

George Fenton has been confined to his home since last Saturday. He has been suffering from rheumatism, which developed very painful pain and he is unable to put any weight on his limbs. He is greatly missed at the barber shop—Girard, 113, Citizen.

WAUKESHA, Wis.—I have had the pleasure of shaking hands with Sheriff John Sleep here and beg to report that he is a wideawake officer.

B. W. E.

ONE of the New York papers prints a picture of Madame Fokina in connection with an announcement to the effect that she is rehearsing new Russian dances at home, preparatory to an American tour. If you saw the same picture we did you'll likely agree that it would be well to meet the madame at the boat with a blanket.

"I CAN see in myself the Prodigal Son—his folly, failure, willfulness, repentance, and finally his success," John D. Rockefeller told his Cleveland pastor the other day. Then the oil king challenged the minister to a game of golf.

Drop a Jit on the Window, Gwen.

Amboy, Ill.—Dear Editor: I am a blonde, 15, and have often been told that I'm the best looking girl in our town. Please tell me how I can get into the movies.

GWENDOLYN S.

CHICAGO police rounded up over three hundred crooks in one night. Must have known just where the boys could be found.

Tips to Auto Salesmen.

For Sale—Fine buggy horse. Gentle enough for any lady to drive.

For Sale—Family mare, only seven years old, saddle, buggy, surrey, harness, blanket and fly net—Quincy Herald.

TWO prominent chiropractors in Iowa had a disagreement that reached a point where a damage suit had been filed in court, but when their attorneys got together they quickly accomplished an adjustment.

DON'T argue with a bee. It always carries his point—Chicago Daily News.

Ah, There, George.

Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Cantrell are in Chicago this week. George taking advantage of this opportunity to show his new hat and pink shirt—Benton (Ill.) Standard.

Take No Such Chances.

A. K. asks: "Is it proper for a young lady who is engaged to set the date for the wedding, or should she wait until the man to whom she is engaged asks her to set the date?"

Bright Sayings of Children.

Little Oswald, aged 4 months, was asked which he loved the more, his mother or his father. Oswald replied: "Shust."

FANNIE.

JACK Cardiff, former welterweight pugilistic champion, has turned financier also. He was converted by Bill Sunda and is now conducting rivals.

THE Germans are apparently preparing for Thanksgiving. They have already taken Brest.

THE Chicago Daily News is offering \$100 for the best answer to the question, "What shall Bud Fisher do with his yearly salary of \$78,000?" As a starter, he might cut off any portion that he chooses and forward it to the conductor of this column, and we have some friends who, with coal hills approaching, doubtless would not mind going to Bud's relief.

Where Heroism Is Recognized.

After finding him in a hospital she nursed him back to health and they were married recently in Paris. After the ceremony Maurice was decorated for conspicuous gallantry—News item from Paris.

THESE are the days when Willie is trying to decide whether he shall endure another year of book slavery or declare his independence and go west and fight Indians.

TROY, Miss., is the home of William Goat.

J. M. C.

The Daily Story

Jeff's Testimony—By Sarah Atwater.

Willard Trevor, a young man in Alabama, on opening his morning mail read a letter which astonished him. It contained a notification that he had been sued for breach of promise. His father had recently died and left him the care of several children, the sons and daughters of a second wife. Trevor had secured the services of a woman to take care of the children, but being dissatisfied with her had discharged her. A lawyer had written that Martha Broadhead, the complainant, would listen to an offer with a view of compromising the suit.

At the moment Trevor was reading this letter his body servant, Jeff, named for the future president of the Southern Confederacy, came into the room with the master's boots that he had shined.

"Jeff," said Trevor, "What do you suppose Miss Broadhead has done? She's sued me for breach of promise."

"Yes, sah."

"She wishes to extort money. She will attempt to prove that I made love to her while she was here in charge of the children. I'm going to call upon you to tell the court that, though you were in the house all the time she was here, if I had been sweet on her you would have noticed it and that you never saw any courting going on between us."

"Yes, sah."

"When Jeff was called to the stand by Trevor's counsel he testified as his master had indicated and was about to step down from the witness box when Miss Broadhead's counsel called upon him to remain for cross examination.

"Jeff," he said patronizingly and intending to ingratiate himself with the witness before attempting to get any information out of him that would injure his master's case, "you find Mr. Trevor a very good master, don't you?"

"Herry good masta, sah."

"You say that you are a house servant?"

"Yes, sah."

"And that you never saw your master sitting in the parlor or on the gallery with Miss Broadhead?"

"No, sah. I didn't neber see marse sitting in de parlor or on de gallery with Miss Broadhead."

"You saw Mr. Trevor on the gallery talking with Miss Broadhead, eh? Well, what was he saying to her?"

"He tole Miss Broadhead of ebber he cotched her sialp'n one ob de chillun agin he ght her de walkin' papers."

"The spectators tutored and the judge called them to order. The attorney colored a bit, then proceeded.

"How was your master in the habit of spending his evenings?"

"Sometimes he went out to call on de neighbors, and sometimes he sot in de library readin'."

Trevor offered Jeff his freedom, but Jeff had been born and reared on the plantation 50 years and said his master might as well "pull up a tree by de roots and throw it into de road."

Sidelights on the European War

Petrograd.—(Correspondence of The Associated Press).—"So intense is the interest in the war among the Russian peasants," says a writer in the Novoe Vremya, "that every train stopping at a wayside station is besieged by peasants of both sexes and all ages stretching their hands to the passengers and crying 'Give us a paper!'

"Before the war the Russian peasant looked upon a newspaper as material for rolling up a cigarette. Now he reads it from beginning to end. Every bit of an old newspaper is received as a crust of bread by a starving beggar."

This prompts the writer to urge the establishment of a great "People's newspaper" to be run by the state, not only as a newspaper for the masses but also as a means of popular education.

"Russia," he says, "has never developed systematically. All her progress has been sudden and by huge strides. Peter the Great started reforming his nobles not by trimming their patriarchal beards, but by shaving them off all at once."

"The Russian people stopped drinking not gradually as a result of a systematic temperance movement, but as a result of a drastic government measure. Why should not a great state newspaper for the people, circulated by the million, educate our people in the shortest time, instead of a slow process of elementary school education?"

Rotterdam.—(Correspondence of The Associated Press).—Announcement is made that the British government has consented to allow the exportation of plants and bulbs from Belgian nurseries through Holland to the United States. This announcement means much to the Belgian nurseryman, and the Chamber of Belgian Nurserymen has passed resolutions expressing its gratitude to the British government, and also to the Dutch Gardeners' company which was instrumental in obtaining the concession.

With the outbreak of the war the Belgian nursery industry began to suffer severely, and the extension of the British prohibition through the autumn season would have meant ruin to most of the Belgian growers.

The consent of the British government is contingent on payment for the goods being made into a bank in England and an agreement through that bank that the money will not be withdrawn while the German occupation of Belgium continues except under license from the British government. A permit for shipment from the British consular officials in Holland will also be necessary.

Tokio.—(Correspondence of The Associated Press).—Dr. Seishu Kinoshita, professor of gynecology and obstet-

"And how did Miss Broadhead spend her evenings?"

"Miss Broadhead she put de chillun to bed."

"About what time did she get the children to sleep?"

"Dunno, sah. I neber see her up but once."

"What was she doing then?"

"Miss Broadhead went to de library where marse Willard was settin' readin' a book."

"Well, what happened between them?"

"Miss Broadhead says, says she: 'I'm gwine to run ovan to Miss Cuthbert's to a few minutes. If any ob de chillun wakes up I'll be back in time so you won't be bothered.' And marse says, 'Dat all right, don't hurry yo'self.' I was gwine to Miss Cuthbert's myself to see her cullud gal, Peggy, so I follered Miss Broadhead as far as de crossroad, and she turned on de crossroad. Since she wasn't gwine to Miss Cuthbert's I jist think I'll see what she war gwine, so I follered her down de road, and she met de oberseer."

This was evidence that the attorney had not bargained for. He would have stopped the testimony, but he knew that the defendant's counsel would call it forth anyway, so he felt obliged to let Jeff go on. This, fairly rebuffed: "De oberseer took Miss Broadhead in he arms and I heard a smack lak de report ob a pistol."

After the laugh that this evidence elicited had subsided Jeff continued:

"Deen dey walked togedder on de road, talkin', I bein' black as de night, de white folks couldn't see me, but I could see de white folks, and climbin' ober de fence, I trabeled in de field alongside ob dem. I hearn Miss Broadhead say dat marse had a heap of money an' he'd rudder pay tan go into court. Den de oberseer he say, 'Yo' hain't got nothin' to' hire a lawyer.' And Miss Broadhead says, says she, 'I neber thought ob dat.' And de oberseer he says, says he, 'I furniah de money to' de lawyer and to' de court.' And Miss Broadhead, she says, says she, 'If yo' do dat I giv yo' half.'"

Naturally every one in the courtroom listened to this evidence with wrapt attention except the plaintiff and her counsel. When Jeff had finished the judge dismissed the case, and the defendant threw his arms around Jeff and hugged him. Plaintiff's counsel gave notice that he would appeal the case on the ground that a slave's testimony was not admissible, but the appearance of guilt in the plaintiff at his testimony indicated that she would not press her complaint further, and she never did.

Trevor offered Jeff his freedom,